



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **For Information Contact:**

#### **Public Affairs**

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<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

### **Group home care giver found guilty of** **assault of a vulnerable adult in March 2004**

**Washington, D.C.** - United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today that on November 1, 2005, Cyriacus Chidi Ibeh, 33, of Brentwood, MD, was found guilty, following a bench trial in D.C. Superior Court, of assault of a vulnerable adult. Ibeh was charged with hitting a vulnerable adult on the head at a group home for mentally retarded individuals in Northeast Washington, D.C. on March 15, 2004. Ibeh, who has licenses in Maryland and Virginia as a Licensed Practical Nurse, will be sentenced on January 9, 2006, before the Honorable Zinora Mitchell Rankin. Ibeh faces a maximum of 180 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The OIG Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) investigated the assault. The MFCU, which was created in March 2000, handled this case as part of an effort called the Guardian Angel Project (GAP). GAP is a comprehensive program designed to deter and, when appropriate, punish health care providers who intentionally abuse or neglect vulnerable persons under their care. Among the institutions covered by GAP are nursing homes, group homes for adults who are mentally retarded and facilities for mentally ill persons.

Page -2-

In announcing the court's verdict, United States Attorney Wainstein and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Patient Abuse Coordinator Jonathan Rich of the MFCU, who investigated the case. Mr. Wainstein and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant United States Attorney Rhonda L. Campbell and Dangkhua Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case, as well as paralegal specialist Lynda Randolph and legal assistant Janelle Taylor, who assisted in the preparation of the case for trial.

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